

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 are pending in the present application and stand rejected. By this amendment, applicant seeks to cancel claims 12-20 without prejudice or disclaimer. These amendments are believed not to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiners Kelley and Hossain for extending him and the undersigned the courtesy of an interview on August 23, 2006, as summarized in the Interview Summary of that date ("Interview Summary"). As recited in the Interview Summary, agreement was reached during the interview that claim 1 is allowable.

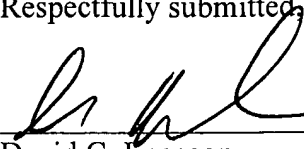
Paragraphs 5-9 of the Office Action reject the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of several combinations of references as cited therein. However, as explained in the Interview Summary, claim 1 has been deemed allowable, and its rejection in paragraph 5 is therefore moot. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-10, which are dependent either directly or indirectly upon allowable claim 1 are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1, as discussed during the interview, and pass claims 1-10 to allowance.

Applicant has cancelled claims 12-20 without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering the rejections to these claim moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections to cancelled claim 12-20.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703/770-7900

Date: September 18, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
By: 
David C. Isaacson
Registration No. 38,500

Ex. No.
34,542

Attachments:

DCI/ar

Customer No. 28970